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Title : Need to take immediate steps to repatriate Shri Sukant Kumar Mohanty, PoW from Pakistan Jail.

SHRI B. MAHTAB (CUTTACK): Thank you, Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir.

I am raising a very important and emotional matter. I would like to draw the attention, especially of the Defence Minister. An Oriya-lad is languishing in the Lahore Central Jail for the last many years. His photograph was published in Oriya newspapers; and the request was to identify this person.

Accordingly, he was identified by Shri Ravindranth Mohanty, a 75-year old person of my constituency. He is a resident of Sauri village, Salepur in Cuttack district. He has identified the person whose photograph has been published as Shri Sukanta Kumar Mohanty. He has identified him because of his age, complexion and cut mark on the forehead. He has said that his son had joined the Army in 1986 and was posted in Agra Regiment. Later, he was posted in Amritsar from where he went missing from June 08, 1999, believing that Shri Sukanta had inadvertently migrated and crossed the border to Pakistan and was apprehended by the Pakistan Army. With all paraphernalia which the Army do, they finally declared Shri Sukanta as an absconder and on April 19, 2003 was dismissed from service.

My allegation is that proper investigation was never made. Even Shri Sukanto's wife, Shrimati Jyotsnamai Mohanty says that the photograph is that of her husband. Though the Pakistan Government has sent a communiquÃ© to its counterpart in India to facilitate the prisoners' repatriation by producing some documents, not much progress has been done till date. I urge upon the Government to take immediate steps for repatriation of Shri Sukanto Kumar Mohanty from Pakistan and provide all support that is due to his position, at the earliest.